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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,683	04/20/2001	Robert L. Shuler JR.	MSC-22953-3	5289
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NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER EXAMINER				
MAIL CODE HA 2101 NASA RD 1 HOUSTON, TX 77058			NGUYEN, LONG T	
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			2816	
			DATE MAILED: 12/04/2001	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examiner	-		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Examiner	Office Action Summary							
Long Nguyen			<u> </u>					
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Edurations of the among be available under the provisions of 3 CPR 1.158(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timaly filed Ether before for may be specified above is less than thirty (3(b) days, as reply within the stability minimum of thirty (30) days, with be considered finely. If the period for may be specified above is less than thirty (3(b) days, as reply with the stability minimum of thirty (30) days, with be considered finely. If the period for may be specified above is less than the stability period will again and the stability of th								
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extractions of minimal by emplained under the provisions of 37 CPR 1.708(a). In no avant, horware, may a reply be limitly filled If the period for reply apposition above is less than thing (30) days, a neply within the statutory minimum of thing (30) days, will be considered timely. If the period for reply apposition devore is less than thing (30) days, a neply within the statutory minimum of thing (30) days, a neply within the statutory minimum of thing (30) days, a neply within the statutory minimum of the period of the communication. If the period for reply apposition to the maining date of this communication. If the period for reply apposition to the maining date of this communication. This action is FINAL. 20) This action is FINAL. 20) This action is final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 8-16 and 22-37 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) Is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) Is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) Is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) Is/are allowed. 8) Claim(s) 8-16 and 22-37 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 10) The drawing(s) filed on Is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 11 approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) The orthory declaration is objected to by the Examiner. If approved, or orected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 19 (0) or provisional application).		The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address						
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Estimates of time may be available under the provisions of 3 CPR 1.136(a). In on event, however, may a reply be limely filed effer SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period to reply socialize from the mailing date of this communication. If the period to reply socialize from the mailing date of this communication is the think of the control of the period of the reply within the state or extended period for received the control of the period for received the period for the think three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any examined patient term application to become ABANDONED (38 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office detribute three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any examined patient term application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the ments is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 8-16 and 22-37 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are ellowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 8-16 and 22-37 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in aboyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). 11) The proposed drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application). a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application No. 1. Cerified copies of the priority docu	• •							
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	2) Notice	of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) Notice of Informal F					

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Election/Restrictions

- 1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:
 - I. Claims corresponding to Figures 6, 11A, 11B and 13.
 - II. Claims corresponding to Figures 10.
 - III. Claims corresponding to Figure 15.
 - IV. No claims corresponding to Figure 16.
 - V. Claims corresponding to Figure 17.
 - VI. Claims corresponding to Figure 20.
 - VII. No claims corresponding to Figures 22 and 25.
 - VIII. Claims corresponding to Figure 23.
 - IX. Claims corresponding to Figure 26.
 - X. No claims corresponding to Figure 27.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, there is no generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the

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limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after

the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP &

809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct.

applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to

be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the

examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission

may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

2. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an

election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR

1.143).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directly to Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-6063. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (703) 308-4876. The fax number for this group is

(703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

December 3, 2001

Long Nguyen

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Primary Examiner